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HSC CONTACT

OLC 75-1253

27 May 1975

REVIEW STAFF

75-1426

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with Jack Boos, House Select Committee
on Intelligence Staff

1. Jack Boos called today and asked how the House Committee could get a copy of the "Vale" report which the Director submitted to the President last December. He said he understood it had been made available to the Senate Select Committee and assumed the House Select Committee would also be able to get a copy. I said I would check on this but I was quite sure the Senate Select Committee made its request directly to the White House and the report was submitted to the Committee from the White House. I mentioned that the House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee had also expressed interest in that report.

25X1 2. Mr. Boos called later and asked if I thought it would be a good idea to have someone come up and give Searle Field, of the Committee staff, the same briefing I gave to Boos on Friday. I said I saw no problem with that on the assumption that Field has security clearances. Boos asked if there was anything that could be added to what I had told him. I said I didn't think so but [] was preparing material for Chairman Lucien Nedzi but it would not be ready today. Boos said Nedzi would be in town and perhaps Nedzi, Field and himself could all be briefed at the same time. After checking with the Director, I made arrangements for the Director, Mr. Knoche and me to meet with them in Nedzi's office this afternoon. See Mr. Knoche's Memo for Record.

25X1 3. Still later in the day, Boos called again by way of follow up to discussions at the meeting today to see if he could set up a meeting with Mr. Knoche and [] to discuss guidelines and procedures. We agreed to get together Thursday at 3:30. During this conversation, Boos and I talked a little about the procedures that have been worked out with the Senate Select Committee and how they plan to handle material from a security standpoint.

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4. I brought up the subject of House Rule XI (permitting members access to records of all Committees) and said I understood a question was to be raised with the House Parliamentarian as to whether the House Select Committee Resolution and Rules could be construed as superceding Rule XI. Boos said their rules provide that only members of the Committee will have access to Committee files and their informal inquiry to the Parliamentarian drew a response that the theory that Committee rules superceded Rule XI was a plausible one but the Parliamentarian will make a formal ruling only if the issue is raised. Boos added the Parliamentarian and the Speaker of the House are not anxious for this issue to come up.

5. I said another question Mr. Knoche would like to discuss on Thursday is the question of clearance of staff and secrecy agreements. In response to my question, Boos said they plan to impose a secrecy agreement but they do not have a text ready yet. The proposed rules call for staff members to abide by them but is is not clear as to how this procedure will be followed. He said he would make a copy of the rules and security regulations available to me as soon as they are typed up.

6. I asked Boos if he would consider classifying the letter from Chairman Nedzi to the Director which was given to us at our meeting this afternoon and I suggested a classification of confidential based on the implications of item 5 in the letter. He said he would do so subject to the Chairman's approval.

7. Mr. Boos mentioned that the Committee's offices and storage facilities have not been reviewed by our security people and I said I would talk with Charles Kane about that. He also said he had talked with George Murphy, of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy staff, who said he wanted an indication from the Chairman as to who should have access to material placed in his custody for the House Committee. I explained the thrust of our letter and Senator Church's letter to Senator Pastore on this subject and Boos said they have prepared a letter from Nedzi asking that an area in the JCAE vault be set aside. He asked that we supplement this with a letter from the Director and I said we would do so.


GEORGE L. CARY
Legislative Counsel

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Distribution:

Original - Subject file

✓ - Mr. Knoche

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OLC:GLC:cmw (typed 10 June 1975)

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Review Staff: 75-630

30 May 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: House Select Committee Contact

- 25X1 1. [] George Cary, John Warner and I met with Searle Field and Jack Boos of the House Select Committee Staff in Field's office today to discuss procedures.
- 25X1 2. [] opened the session by describing agreements on procedures reached with the Senate Select Committee. He covered paraphrasing, compartmentation, certification of clearances, secrecy agreements, compartmentation of data, and proposed exchange of correspondence between the DCI and the Committee Chairman which would take note of agreement on such matters.
3. Field indicated personal problems (and problems mentioned by others under consideration for Staff employment) at the prospect of having to be "cleared" by the FBI. He seemed to take offense at the concept and emphasized his view that clearances were a matter for the Committee to decide.
4. Field also indicated a questioning attitude concerning secrecy agreements. We emphasized the importance that security arrangements and secrecy agreements will have in establishing the credibility of the Committee and the Staff. The discussion of all this included our hopes that the Committee will focus on inadequacies in the laws governing protection of classified information.
5. We alerted Field and Boos to the Third Agency Rule and its effect on document requests.

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6. Field says the Staff and the Committee will be attempting to sharpen the issues to be reviewed and the sharpening will be taking place over the next two or three weeks.

7. We discussed possibilities for early briefings of the Committee and Staff. Field leans toward a morning-long briefing session here to get the Committee educated on the Agency and its top management. This could be followed within a few days by an appearance before the Committee by the Director whose presentation would be based on the issues he believes it important that the Committee deal with.



E. H. Knoche
Assistant to the Director

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